

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Support for the amendment is found at Example D of the working examples at page 14 of the originally-filed specification. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendment. Claims 14-15 are cancelled. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Gorr for the helpful comments during the courteous discussions of the present application, which are summarized and expanded upon below. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Gorr for indicating that the above amendment, combined with the remarks below, appear to further favorable prosecution of the present application.

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and/or § 103(a) over any of one of Leach et al. and/or Saunders et al. alone or in any combination thereof is believed to be obviated by the above amendment.

Leach et al. discloses, at best, an oligomer having a molecular weight range of from 500 to 5000 for the polyol (diol) (see column 4, lines 35-44). Since a hydroxyl value (V_{OH}) is defined as the number of mg of potassium hydroxide (KOH: MW = 56.11) required to neutralize the acetic acid capable of combining by acetylation with 1 g of sample, the following relationship is generally known to hold between molecular weight (M) and the hydroxyl value (V_{OH}):

$M = (56.11 \times 1000 \times N) / V_{OH}$, where N is the number of hydroxyl groups (see column 5, line 25, of the enclosed copy of USP 6, 503,997 as a reference demonstrating that this relationship is commonly known to the skilled artisan). Therefore, utilizing this equation for the molecular weight range of from 500 to 5000 disclosed in Leach et al., the skilled artisan can readily understand that the oligomer disclosed by Leach et al. has a corresponding

hydroxyl value (V_{OH}) of from 224 to 22 mg KOH/mg. In fact, Leach et al. discloses that this range is preferable; thereby teaching away from an oligomer having hydroxyl values (V_{OH}) of greater than 224 and less than 22 mgKOH/mg. Therefore, Leach et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest an oligomer having a hydroxyl value (V_{OH}) of from 17 to 9 mg KOH/mg.

In direct contrast, the claimed oligomer has a hydroxyl value (V_{OH}) of from 17 to 9 mg KOH/mg. Therefore, the present invention relates to polyols having high molecular weights. Such polyols, when cured, have excellent elongation properties, e.g. flexible, enabling it to be used e.g. coating material; thereby providing excellent follow-up action to a substrate. Further, such an oligomer may have a low glass transition temperature so as to the physical properties thereof do not change greatly within the normally used temperature, especially when the Tg of a soft segment is low. Further, it means that the flexibility attributable to the soft segment does not change greatly within the normally used temperature range. Accordingly, a cured structure having the claimed oligomer may have a low Tg and physical properties that may not change readily; which is very important to a coating material.

Since Leach et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest an oligomer having a hydroxyl value (V_{OH}) of from 17 to 9 mg KOH/mg, Leach et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Moreover, the Office relies on Saunders et al. to support its contention that it may be known to utilize propylene oxide homopolymer polyols of molecular weight of 2000 having lower viscosity. However, Saunders et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest an oligomer having a hydroxyl value (V_{OH}) of from 17 to 9 mg KOH/mg. Accordingly, Saunders et al. fails to disclose or suggest what Leach et al. clearly lacks.

In light of the above, it is clear that no combination of Leach et al. and/or Saunders et al. alone or in any combination thereof disclose or suggest an oligomer having a hydroxyl

value (V_{OH}) of from 17 to 9 mg KOH/mg. Therefore, no combination of Leach et al. and/or Saunders et al. alone or in any combination thereof discloses or suggests the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

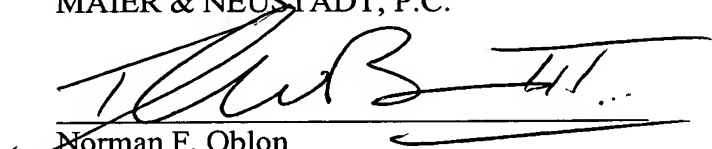
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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